

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6504  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5874

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR RH  
SUBJ: RHODESIA: PROBLEMS WITH BOTSWANA

REF: PRETORIA 5873

1. HAROLD HAWKINS IN DECEMBER 24 CONVERSATION SAID HE THOUGHT  
USG SHOULD KNOW ABOUT STEPS BEING TAKEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO  
DEFUSE CURRENT BOTSWANA FUROR OVER ALLEGED BORDER INCURSION  
FROM RHODESIA.

2. LAST MONDAY AFTERNOON (DECEMBER 20) A BOTSWANA DELEGATION  
OF THREE MEMBERS ARRIVED IN SOUTH AFRICA BY SPECIAL CHARTER  
AIRCRAFT TO SEE THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE SAG OFFICIAL IN PRETORIA.  
BRAND FOURIE, JUST BACK FROM THE US, RECEIVED THEM. BURDEN  
OF THEIR MESSAGE WAS THAT SAG GET RHODESIA TO STOP THE HIT  
AND RUN RAIDS ACROSS THE BORDER. THEY INDICATED THAT GOB  
WAS SEEKING SESSION OF UNSC TO DISCUSS MATTER, AND IN ANY  
EVENT IF RAIDS DID NOT STOP GOB WOULD SEEK HELP OF "OUTSIDE  
SOURCES." DELEGATION CLAIMED THAT MAIN OFFENDERS WERE  
SELOUS SCOUTS. THEY GAVE FOURIE A LIST OF SOME 66  
ATTACKS GOING BACK TO 1966 AND ALSO LEFT WITH HIM A COPY  
OF THE BOTSWANA VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF LAST FRIDAY  
(DECEMBER 17).  
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3.FOURIE PROMISED DELEGATION THAT HE WOULD RELAY MESA  
SAGE TO RHODESIANS IMMEDIATELY. HAWKINS SAID IN PASSING  
IT TO SALISBURY HE RECOMMENDED THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED TO  
TRY TO SET UP A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOB  
IN SOUTH AFRICA TO "TALK THINGS OUT." HAWKINS COMMENTED

IT WAS UTTER NONSENSE TO ALLOW RELATIONS TO DETERIORATE. GOB HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON RHODESIA. HE DID NOT DENY THAT SOME RAIDS MAY HAVE COME FROM RHODESIA BUT THESE WERE HIGHLY EXAGGERATED AND IN FACT RAIDS OCCUR BOTH WAYS. IN PAST RELATIONS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. HE FEARED THAT THERE WERE NEFARIOUS ELEMENTS SEEKING TO CREATE TROUBLE FOR RHODESIA ALONG BOTSWANA BORDER IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRESSURES ON HIS GOVERNMENT. BY REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR SOLODOVNIKOV'S RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE AND OFFER OF ARMS, HAWKINS WAS SUGGESTING THAT SOVIETS WERE PROBABLY BEHIND CURRENT GOB INITIATIVE.

4. HAWKINS SAID THAT SALISBURY HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO GO AHEAD WITH EFFORTS TO SET UP MEETING. HE HAS ALREADY CALLED STIENKAMP (SPECIAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA, WHO ACCORDING TO HAWKINS IS BANNED AFRIKANER WHO WENT TO BOTSWANA AND TOOK OUT CITIZENSHIP) WITH WHOM HE HAS WORKED IN THE PAST. STEINKAMP PROMISED TO CALL HAWKINS ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 27) TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE GOB DELEGATION WOULD MEET WITH RHODESIANS AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT ON JANUARY 4. HAWKINS EXPECTED THE ANSWER TO BE FAVORABLE.

5. HAWKINS FURNISHED SECTION OF BOTSWANA LIST OF RAIDS PERTAINING TO 1976 WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

28.2.76. THREE BOTSWANA, TRAVELLING FROM KASANE TO FRANCISTOWN THROUGH RHODESIA, WERE ASSAULTED BY MEMBERS OF THE B.S.A.P.

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MAY 1976. AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF RHODESIAN SOLDIERS ENTERED BOTSWANA ILLEGALLY, LOOKING FOR ONE OF THE VILLAGERS AT MABOLE, NEAR SENOLALE.

12.6.76. THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES KILLED A BOTSWANA, MOKHIPENI RAMONWANA, BY SHASHE RIVER, ON THE BORDER NEAR MABOLE VILLAGE.

6.8.76. MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ILLEGALLY CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA NEAR MAITENGWE AND INTERROGATED BATSWANA AT GUNPOINT ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF WHAT THEY CALLED TERRORISTS IN THE AREA.

7.8.76. ANOTHER ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO BOTSWANA WAS MADE BY A PARTY OF 6 MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SEC. FORCES NEAR MAITENGWE WHO INTERROGATED BATSWANA AT GUNPOINT ABOUT ALLEGED TERRORISTS. THEY SEARCHED 7 BATSWANA AND THEIR PREMISES.

THE SAME DAY ANOTHER INCURSION OCCURRED, WHEN AN ARMED PARTY OF MEMBERS OF THE R.S.F. LANDED AT MAITENGWE IN BOTSWANA BY HELICOPTER AND HARASSED BATSWANA WHO WERE TENDING THEIR CATTLE. THEY WERE ALSO SEARCHED AND INTERROGATED AT GUNPOINT.

27.9.76. OPERATION OF RHODESIAN SOLDIER, GLAUCO BOGLIETTI. GAVE FALSE INFORMATION AND ASKED FOR S. AFRICAN VISA. WAS LATER DEPORTED TO RHODESIA.

11.11.76. REPORT RECEIVED THAT AT ABOUT 1730 HRS, ONE, CHOMMONOKO MPHOFU, OF THE GWANE VILLAGE NEAR MATSILOJE, WAS FIRED UPON BY RHODESIAN SOLDIERS WHEN DRIVING HIS CATTLE FROM THE RIVER AFTER WATERING THEM. THIS OCCURRED ABOUT ONE AND A HALF MILES INSIDE BOTSWANA, AFTER HE IGNORED A CALL FROM TWO WHITE SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM. HE RAN AWAY WHEN SEVERAL SHOTS WERE FIRED AT HIM. POLICE LATER TOOK POSSESSION OF 18 EMPTY CARTRIDGES PICKED UP ON THE SPOT BY TWO YOUNG BOYS WHO VISITED THE SCENE AFTER THE INCIDENT.  
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20.11.76. INCIDENT AT THE BORDER RE DEATH OF PHATSIMO TOPOLE. BODY WAS COLLECTED AT RAMOKGWEBANA BORDER POST. DURING HANDING OVER A CHIEF INSP. HICKINBOTHAM FROM PLUMTREE REMARKED THAT RHODESIA WAS PERSISTENTLY ATTACKED BY TERRORISTS OPERATING FROM BOTSWANA AND BEFORE LONG THEY WOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE BATSWANA.

18.11.76. HOUSE DESTROYED BY BOMBS IN FRANCISTOWN. TWO DETONATIONS - WINDOWS IN SURROUNDING HOUSES BROKEN AND DEBRIS SCATTERED AROUND. 1 SUITCASE BOMBS DISCOVERED LATER BESIDE THE REMAINS OF THE HOUSE - THESE WERE DETONATED ON THE SPOT.

25.11.76. KIDNAPPING OF DISANG MODIAKGOTLA, NEAR NOROKA VILLAGE. BOY, WHOSE FATHER OWNS A SHOP AT MOROKA, WAS LOOKING FOR A STRAY GOAT WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS.

11.12.76. KIDNAPPING OF MR JOTHA BANGO AND MR ABEL MAPHANE AT MAHATANE LANDS, NEAR MATSHELAGABEDI. SOLDIERS BURNT DOWN MR. MAPHAN'E HOUSE, ALTOGETHER 7 HOUSES WERE DAMAGED DURING THE INCIDENT.

14.12.76. AT 2300 HOURS. MR MODIAJGOTLA OF MOROKA VILLAGE HEARD THE SOUND OF A VEHICLE APPROACHING HIS HOME. HE WOKE HIS FAMILY UP AND THEY ALL FLED AND TOOK COVER IN DARKNESS. HIS HOUSE AND ANOTHER WERE BLOWN UP. NO ONE INJURED.  
BOWDLER

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